

REMARKS

By the foregoing amendments several corrections have been made in the application specification, claims 1-6 have been cancelled and new claims 7-17 have been added. Thus, claims 7-17 are in the application.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 were rejected in the outstanding Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent to Sakai, U.S. Patent No. 5,679,203, in view of the patent to Hinton, U.S. Patent No. 5,643,395, as set forth on pages 3-6 of the Office Action.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakai and Hinton as applied to claims 1-3, and further in view of a patent to Cairns, U.S. Patent No. 6,189,587, as set forth on pages 6 and 7 of the Office Action.

These rejections of the claims have been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-6. However, Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 7-17 patentably define over the cited references. The primary reference to Sakai discloses an apparatus for peeling the interlayer of a two-sided adhesive tape. It is admitted in the rejection of claims 1-3, 5 and 6 in the outstanding Office Action that Sakai does not disclose that the tape feeding station is provided with a reel stand having at least two dispensing reel mount members for setting at least two tape supply reels separately thereon; said reel mount members of said reel stand being connected to a switch means and switchable to and from an operating position for reeling out said tape to said bonding means and a standby position. These features of the present invention are also recited in new claims 7-15 which are believed

to patentably define over Sakai, either taken alone or in combination with the secondary references to Hinton and Cairns.

The secondary reference to Hinton discloses an automatic splicing apparatus wherein the reel mount members 13 and 14 are stationary, not movably positioned by switch means for switching the respective reel mount members and supply reels thereon between feed and standby positions as in the present invention.

The present invention as recited in new claim 7 also includes a bonding means including a drawing chuck member adapted to grip a leading portion of the ACF tape reeled out from the reel stand, a bonding roller adapted to press the liner tape against a substrate plate, and a peeler roller adapted to peel off the liner tape from an ACF bonded on the substrate plate. Further, new claim 7 recites a tape handover means adapted to pick up the leading end portion of the ACF tape from the tape end holder member and to hand the same over to the drawing chuck member of the bonding means after passing the ACF tape through a path under the bonding roller and over the peeler roller. These features are not disclosed or suggested by either Sakai or Hinton.

The secondary reference to Cairns relied upon in the rejection of claim 4 discloses an automated tape spicing system. The reference was relied upon for its disclosure of a rotational shaft, item 18 in Figure 2 about which mandrels 19a-19c for respective rolls of tape, can be rotated into and out of an active position. The patent to Cairns does not provide for the aforementioned deficiencies of Sakai and Hinton, particularly as to the use of a bonding means including a drawing chuck member and a tape handover means to pick up the leading end portion of the ACF tape from the tape end

holder member as recited in new claim 7. Likewise, the sequence of steps of the method of claim 15 involving the use of the ACF tape feeder machine of the present invention is not suggested by the cited references.

In view of the above amendments and remarks reconsideration and allowance of new claims 7-17 is respectfully requested.

A Petition for Extension of Time is being filed concurrently with this amendment.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 1281.42910X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments